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HISTORY OF THE
ADAM BRANCH

OF THE
SIMON FAMILY



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HISTORY OF THE ADAM BRANCH OF THE SIMON FAMILY

By a Great, Great, Great Granddaughter of the
Sixth Generation

Those privileged to be present at a reunion of the Simon-Shive family have seen an upper, middle-class family in full plumage and with full baskets.

But one who possesses the gift of psychological analysis will witness a spectacle, not only delightful in itself, but illustrative of a big human problem. He is like one who, having watched a tree grow from its planting—a model of tenacity and persistency—will one day see it flourishing in full blossom and fruitage, at the height of its prosperity and success.

Just so has our great family grown and flourished. Let us go back nearly two hundred years to the first old progenitors, whose record we can trace on the Simon side of this great family tree.

The name "Simon" goes back to New Testament times and means "purity"; hence our modern term "simon-pure."

These first ancestors are descendants of Johann and Adam Simon, born in Germany in the early 1700's. They emigrated from Germany or Switzerland across the Atlantic ocean about thirty-five years before the Revolution and settled in a colony (now Pennsylvania) east of the Alleghany Mountains, about forty miles south-east of Harrisburg. They reared a family of nine children—four sons and five daughters. After their children were grown, and prior to 1784, they moved over the mountains to Washington County, Pennsylvania, where Adam lived to the age of 98 years. These parents are buried at the Evangelical West Bethlehem Church. Several of their sons, in the second generation, were ministers.

Our ancestor was Andrew, the second son of Adam.

When this Andrew (our Great, Great Grandfather) was only twelve years old, he was stolen by a band of Indians while working alone in his father's sugar camp. The rest of the family, cut off by the Indians, ran to the Fort for safety. The Indians set fire to the house, burned everything in sight, then left with little Andrew, stealing women and children and plundering as they went. Although held a prisoner for nine months, he said the Indians were very kind to him. He was adopted by a squaw who had lost a little son and she often gave him food when her own children had to go hungry. He was released in the

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fall of 1764 after the trouble with the French and Indians was over.

We next hear of him when he married Mary Elizabeth Geckler. They had four children when they followed the father over the mountains to Washington County, Pennsylvania. They carried all their possessions, four children and themselves on two horses. Here in West Bethlehem Township, about seven miles from Washington, the county seat, they cleared up a farm under many trials and privations.

Andrew afterward built a grist-mill—horse power—the iron for which had to be carried over the mountains. Before this, they had to carry their grist on horses more than thirty miles to have it ground. In later years, he built a saw-mill—water power—on Mill Seat Creek. This saw-mill did a good business for fifty years.

About this time Andrew bought a section of 640 acres called Section 35 of Salem Township, Columbiana County, Ohio, the deed for which was dated March 10, 1807, and signed by Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States. He also bought over 200 acres in Boardman Township (now Mahoning County) and divided this land into homesteads for his children.

Andrew had a family of ten children—Jacob, Margaret, Elizabeth, George, Susanna, Barbara, Andrew, Catherine, Peter and Adam. The last six were born in Washington County after they crossed the Alleghany Mountains.

Our Great, Great Grandfather, Andrew, died at the age of 77 years. Our Great, Great Grandmother was 76 years old.

Now for the third generation: As already stated, Andrew and Mary Elizabeth reared a family of ten children.

Of these, our ancestor was Adam, the youngest of the family. He was born November 7, 1799. In the fall of 1821, he was married to Susanna Wonsetler of Washington County, Pennsylvania. His brothers and sisters had all established homes elsewhere, so Adam remained on the old homestead to farm the place and care for the old folks. In 1835, after the death of his parents, he also moved to a reserved portion of the before mentioned "Simon's Sections" of 840 acres in Ohio.

Adam and Susanna, our Great Grandparents, had twelve children—seven girls and five boys—Andrew, Rebecca, Catherine, Elizabeth (our Grandmother), Philip, Abraham, Susanna, Mary Anne, Jonas, John Adam, Samuel and David.

Samuel died at the age of 16 years. Jonas died when 26 years of age, after being in the ministry only six months.

Rebecca married and had four children. Catherine had five children, and Abraham, seven. These three lived in Indiana.

John Adam, now (1928) the only surviving one of this great family, lives with his wife and one daughter near Spencer, Medina County, Ohio. He is 85 years of age, a fine old man, still able to milk three cows; raise his own chickens, pigs, etc., and play a good game of golf. His wife, Aunt Cal., is 81 years old, spry as a kitten, and, oh, so witty. During the last spring house cleaning, she got impatient waiting for the hired man to help move the "base burner" stove; so she climbed onto a ladder, took down the pipe, cleaned the chimney, and moved the stove back against the wall all by herself. They have two daughters, both married, and two grandsons.

David, the youngest boy, who lived in Marion County, had two girls.

Philip, married to Catherine Halverstadt, had a family of seven boys and one girl. One boy died young. Of the remaining six, five became ministers of the gospel and one a farmer. This family still is growing ministers in several branches of the family tree.

Andrew and Mary never married, so lived together on the old homestead until after the death of Andrew; then Mary spent her last years with her brother Adam. Andrew, although crippled when a young man, was a veritable sunshine maker. We are indebted to this uncle for the history of the first three generations.

Susanna, who married Enos Bricker, had one daughter who died young.

Elizabeth (our Grandmother) married Solomon Shive about 1846. They had eleven children. Six are still living (1928). This is our branch of the Simon Family Tree.

Our Grandfather Shive was born and reared on the old homestead in Salem Township, Columbiana County, Ohio. His parents, our Great Grandparents on the Shive side of the house, were John and Margaret Shive, married about 1814. They had ten children—Anna, Jacob, John, Lydia, Solomon (our Grandfather) and David who were twins, Simon, Conrad, Sarah, and Lucinda. Am sorry we cannot go farther back to make up this side of the family tree, but we have a splendid start with the Fourth Generation, so let's go!

Our Grandparents, Solomon Shive (born September 12, 1823) and Elizabeth Simon Shive (born September 24, 1828) were married about 1846. The following children were born to them: David, John, Margaret Ann, Simon Adam, Susanna, Jonas Marian, Enos Leander, Mary Arvilla, Samuel Edward, Irene Alverda, and Henry Charles. They also raised a grandson, Harvey Shive, whose mother died when he was born. Samuel was killed in his twenty-fourth year. The other ten have all married and have splendid families ranging in size from one to eleven children. Many of these children are married and have children. This carries our geneology down through five generations.

I am going to ask that each of the original offspring of the Solomon and Elizabeth Shive Branch of this family tree, or a representative of those not living, work out a family history of their own immediate branch and give it to me; then next year we will add another chapter to our family history of the Sixth and Seventh Generations. Perhaps we can have a family tree.

I found an interesting fact in looking up this history of the Simon Family: All except one boy of the entire Simon family voted the Republican ticket.

There is also the story of Abraham, son of Nicholas Simon, brother of our Great, Great Grandfather. He enlisted in the war of 1812 with a friend and brother-in-law, George Moherman, who married his sister. They were eager to aid the defenseless settlers along Lake Erie from bands of Indians who were arrayed with the British against the settlers. Brave Commander Perry was planning a defense on Lake Erie and we all know of his victory near Cleveland when he sent out the terse message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." It was in this skirmish that our relatives went to the defense of the Commonwealth of Ohio and were assigned to defend the block house near Sandusky. These two men were splendid marksmen and a number of savages were killed before Abraham received a wound which stung him to frenzy. He took aim at every red-skin in sight. They closed in on him, overpowered him, and tortured him to death. After gashing him all over with their knives, they stuck pine splinters into the gashes and set him on fire, dancing a war dance around him as he burned to death. Thus this brave man died for his country. The brother-in-law had found a wounded friend, and while carrying him back to the fort, the friend was shot to death on his back. This so enraged George Moherman that he killed and scalped the Indian and, waving the scalp over his head, reached the fort alive. He lived to tell of the bravery of our relatives in this war.



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